9/23/68

Dear Steve,

Jomm is often undependable, his word sometimes ought not be taken. Last trip, where he loused up despite my warning, cost me $500. I spoke to him yesterday. He says he can take care of the necessities, to plan for leaving here about 10/20, which is pretty close to the best time for me for a number of reasons. How is it for you? If you can make arrangements that will help, please, by all means, do, for he is not dependable and there is still that $500 to be paid back.

If Art gets busy and doesn't tell you, I was able to get the post office to insure the ms after closing Saturday and I sent it to him feeling that is perhaps safer. He knows he is to give it to you.

As the enclosed letter to Fred indicates, I am not happy about the laxity in reporting the contents of the manuscript. There is no need to invite new problems, for the existing ones are more than sufficient. There are two cells very close to me here, and these are very bad boys. The question is not who did it but that it was done at all.

Some of the things that happen are beyond excusing, impossible to understand if one begins with the assumption of maturity, and I acknowledge this, on the record, is perhaps too much to assume. I asked for copies of pictures of Rose. One of the reason, and only one, is what I seemed to recall as a similarity to the Steve Wilosn pictures.

Naturally, the first person to know about it is Rose. What he has been saying has been coming back to me. Now I do not know who it is who contains within himself the total of human knowledge and understanding, but should not someone be asking, suppose there might be something wrong? What then? In a half year, there has been no picture and another one of us is waiting and has been to show this picture to two different people for what I regard as a very important reason, as he does also. Just last week he asked me again. What can I tell him? That because Rose says he is kosher, he absolutely must be? If he is kosher, how is he at all hurt by having a picture taken? Or by having witnesses say he can not possibly be someone there might be reason to suspect? That Rose doesn't like it is quite understandable, whichever way he is. What is not understandable is that he was told.

Trent and Sprague seem to be working or to have worked on the Canada Ray story. They're told me nothing, but others indicate they are hopeful.

Best regards,